

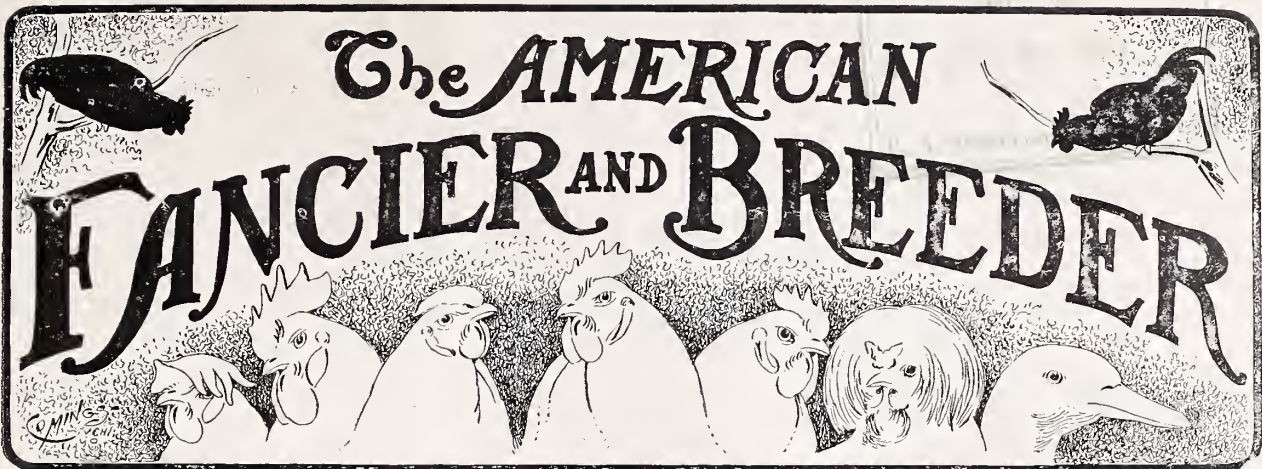
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# The AMERICAN FANCIER AND BREEDER



Vol. 20.

De Kalb, Illinois., February, 1903.

No. 2.



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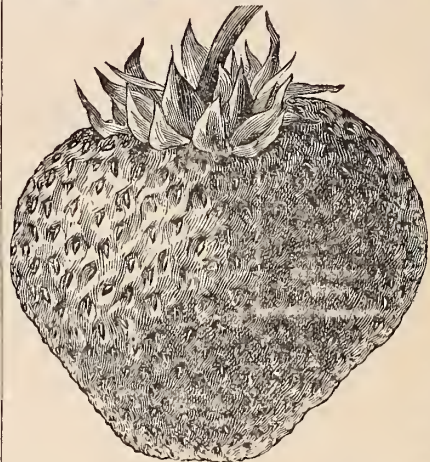
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# The American FANCIER and BREEDER.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO POULTRY CULTURE.

Vol. 20.

DE KALB, ILLINOIS, FEBRUARY, 1902.

No. 2.

## *Fertile Eggs In Winter.*

How shall I get a high percentage of fertile eggs for incubator use, especially in December and January?

First provide your fowls with comfortable quarters, where the drinking water will not freeze at night, and see that they have plenty of room in their scratching shed and see that they use it. Select cockerels that are nearly twelve months old, well-built, vigorous, hardy, and the first up in the morning with a rousing welcome for the first in the field. Keep two such to alternate, using one a week, then resting him a week. Repeated experiments have proven the need of this to increase the fertility of the eggs. Two such cocks are enough for twenty hens when alternated as directed.

The hens should be large, well-developed early-matured, hardy and vigorous, picked from the most active in the flock, early risers.

Provide your breeders with the best grit and crushed oyster shells and plenty of nice fine road dust and see too it that they use it. Tolerate no lice. Use condition powders (I recommend Sheridans) only as necessary to keep the fowls in best of health. Keep the houses clean and free from smell and keep the hens scratching.

In the winter feed a half ration of whole grain in the scratching shed about 11:30 a.m. and whole ration at 3:30 p. m., the grain scattered in the litter and raked over.

The whole grain should be oats and barley, at night wheat and corn half and half. On the coldest nights all corn. At night scald your cut clover or clover meal with boiling water, cover and let steam.

For the morning mash feed equal parts of corn meal, ground oats, middlings, bran, bone meal and meat meal and clover.

Neither the meat meal or clover meal can be left out without reducing the percentage of fertility. Mix this mash thoroughly and wet until it is crumbly with the clover tea. Hang up a cabbage where it will keep the hens jumping and give beets and turnips occasionally. Feed charcoal once a week. Give all the skim milk they will drink. In selecting and mating from year to year follow line breeding. Know your stock. Know their pedigree. Use trap nests. Breed from hens that are the most fertile, strong, quick maturing and hardy. Those that are record-breakers and good producers, that reproduce themselves in their offspring and better than themselves.

The males that have proven good getters retain another year, also the hens that have

proven the very cream of your breeders, and whose eggs are extra fertile, keep over; you can't afford to part with these for untried pullets.

The percentage of fertility will increase year by year if you mind these points and breed with that aim in view and never let your hens get loggy with fat.—W.E. Dean.

## *Success With Poultry.*

This is a business which is followed to a greater or less extent in almost every locality, the success of it depending upon the care and attention given it. We believe, says a writer in the *Prairie Farmer*, that localities oftentimes have something to do with the success of poultry raising, and soils may also have their influence in keeping flocks healthful. We have in mind now a farmer who owns a farm of 160 acres, which is owned by a middle aged man with wife and three or four children. They have a comfortable house and barn and all other needed buildings, including two good hen houses. They have this farm divided so that there is a strip of twenty acres of timber just west of the barn. Through this there is running a good-sized ravine. On one-half of this tract of twenty acres there are buildings, gardens, orchards and truck patches, and alongside of them are ten acres of clover and timothy for pasture. The poultry has had the run of all this tract. The rest of the farm is kept in oats, corn, timothy, cow peas, with a few acres of rye.

About 300 hens, with turkeys, geese and other fowls, are kept on this place, but the greater part of the income is derived from the sale of eggs and chickens. The variety kept is the Plymouth Rock. From my own actual experience, and from the experience of the owner of the above farm, this is the best breed to keep for results. The White or Brown Leghorn may lay more eggs than the Plymouth Rock, but they are small, and for table fowls they are not nearly as good, and one of the chief sources of meat on the farmer's table is from the poultry yards. We have always found that the Plymouth Rock has better flesh and its flesh is more evenly distributed than any other variety, while the flesh of the Leghorn is more like that of the prairie hen. Then if we want to sell a dozen hens or so the Plymouth Rock will weigh at least two pounds more per hen than the Leghorns, and very frequently will weigh from three to three and one-half pounds more. On the above farm we find that they now have only about 200

chicks, 100 were hatched by the first of April, and these will average about 1½ pounds now. The other were hatched about the last of April, and they are also getting to be good-sized chicks.

The wife of this farmer, who has full charge of the poultry, does not believe in hatching a few chicks at a time and keeping the hatches coming off all summer. She wants a good lot of them at a time, and she finds that it is as much trouble to care for a dozen chicks as it is for fifty. If the eggs hatch out well she always take the chickens from two or three hens and places them with one, the number given to each hen being twenty-five or thirty. She sends all the roosters that are not needed for table use to the market, but every pullet is kept on the farm, and all of the oldest hens and poorest hens are sold each year.

There is one thing that should be constantly borne in mind by farmers' wives, and which is often sadly neglected, that is the breaking up of the sitting hen. Two coops are needed for this purpose, and as soon as a hen shows a tendency to sit coop her up, keep her there three days and night, then turn her out and she will begin to lay again the next day after you let her out. By having two coops for this purpose every hen can be caught daily, or nearly every day.

Now, let us see what the income of this family is from their chickens alone. Of course there is no account kept of every dollar's worth of eggs and poultry sold. During the last year, that is, from May 1 1901, to May 1 1902, 1,100 dozen of eggs were sold, at an average price of 14½ cents per dozen, making a total income of \$159. Several dollars' worth of hens and roosters were sold in addition, besides quite a number of other poultry. All of the groceries needed for the household were bought with the poultry, as well as the greater part of the clothing, boot and shoes for the whole family. From this showing it is plain that there is no other source from which a farmer's wife can secure so large and as steady an income, and at the same time with the least inconvenience, as with the proper care of her poultry.

Fowls should never be fed all they will eat. They are gluttony should not be encouraged.

One way of destroying a hen's digestion and inviting disease is to keep on feeding soft feed exclusively.



*Mating the Breeding Birds.*

By this time the average breeder should be turning his attention to the mating of his breeding stock. Either victory or defeat in the show room is fresh in the minds of thousands of our readers. We say thousands for this reason that the exhibitors at the 250 or more shows this season will number well into the thousands and AMERICAN POULTRY JOURNAL reaches nearly every one of them. Those who have been defeated need to consider well the problems of mating in order that they may make sure of improvement for next year. Those who have been victorious need to maintain their vigilance and make greater head-way if possible, because their vanquished competitors have in most cases been spurred on by defeat and will double their efforts to regain lost ground. Breeders should bear in mind that next fall and winter is not the real time to prepare for the show room. At that time we can only put the finishing touches upon the material we have at hand. The time for thought and action is right now in February and March and the place to begin is with the parents of the prospective winners.

There is too little importance attached to the mating of stock and too little attention paid to the principles involved which are sure to be overlooked unless studied, but which just as surely have their influence for good or bad. Health and vigor are two of the most important essentials in breeding stock. It is worse than folly to mate birds possessing weak constitutions and with disease germs lurking in their systems as the result of roup or other constitutional disease, which has seemingly been cured. Let the breeding birds be hardy, active, vigorous specimens of good size and in pink of condition. Do not depend too much upon two extremes producing a medium, as for instance the mating of a female with extremely short tail to a male bird with an extremely long tail, in hopes that the progeny will come with tails of medium length. It may be that every chick of the young stock will show the defect intensified by reason of prepotency in one or the other of the parents. It would be better to mate two birds with tails a trifle too short or a trifle too long than to select birds showing the two extremes. The same rule applies to other defects and characteristics.

The main point is to remember that the bird before us is not himself alone when considered from the standpoint of reproductive force, but that there lies in him the latent characteristics of his ancestors and that under favorable conditions they will make themselves manifest in the progeny. There is only one way to produce Standard bred birds with the greatest degree of success and that is by an intelligent system of line breeding and that expression means an understanding of the characteristics of the stock for several generations back and by judicious inbreeding.—A. P. J.

*Experience Necessary.*

I will continue this writing by taking up this subject where I left it in the November issue of the *The Poultry Standard*. By referring to this, you will find that I have cited you to the man installed in a well regulated plant, sufficient means to buy, and supply everything necessary. Educated along the different lines even to a confidence that defied disease, etc., and now you ask wherein did he blunder?

At the time that I visited him, he was casting about as to where he should buy his foundation stock, and made mention that he had made up his mind to invest with Mr. So and So, because of the reputation his stock had and so on. You know how it sounds to have the name associated with that of some one revealed as being a great man, and so I listened and thought about the advisability of dropping a word of caution, (for I chanced to know something of the fowls he was about to buy,) concluding that silence was golden, I went my way and left my friend to his own counsel.

As the season was quite busy for me, I did not see him again for some time. However we exhausted courtesies. The manager and his proprietor called at my place later, and told me how he had purchased a carload of White Wyandottes and was ready and awaiting their arrival, anxious to launch out into the broiler business. And for this reason he had selected a Wyandotte as he thought the plump carcass made a better broiler however I thought that part of it only a matter of fancy and somewhat of a conjecture. Not many days after this visit my druggist told me that my friend had been in and purchased five dollars worth of drugs with which to treat the car load of White Wyandottes with a great name.

They brought a good supply of roup with them and the disaster that followed I will leave you to guess about. The idea that I want you to get is, experience necessary, not only to rear and care for the stock but to conduct a plant. We must be judicious in buying. We are made to mourn even now at some mistakes we have made ourselves along this line. Quite an amusing coincidence occurred some years ago when I thought to buy some eggs from a firm with a great long name, (sounded well any way). Got them, hatched them and Oh! My! I had chickens of all shapes, colors, and sizes, when I expected to get Brahmas. Joke! I think it was. I did not lose faith in all poultrymen, as some people do, but tried again, this time encountered a first class judge of fancy bred poultry, and located a man of sterling worth who sold me a dozen of the very best Light Brahma, females, that the country could afford. I then sent east and bought a male, mated them up and my success as a breeder along this line has been repeated in the show reports. So I will say no more about this purchase. I am willing to confess my blunders that others may profit by them, and let me say before

closing this writing that if you are ready now to stock a poultry plant and would take the advice of one who has lost in investment, Look before you leap.—*Poultry Standard*.

*Early Hatched Chickens.*

We find by experience that early hatched chickens are always the best. We set out incubators early in April and in November the pullets begin to lay. In the latter part of the summer the pullets are as large as the old hens. Early pullets make our best winter layers, and the eggs from them are much better for hatching purposes than from late hatched chicks. The eggs are larger, with more vitality in them. They will hatch a larger per cent of chicks that will live and grow well, than will eggs from late hatching. A late hatched chick will never attain the size of an early one. The early one gets its full size while the weather is warm and the forage is abundant, but the late one has to make the finish in the winter on dry feed in confinement. Nothing grows so well in confinement as when left to run at will. Late hatched chickens grow very nicely while they have a chance to run, but winter comes on while they are yet growing and they go into the house and stay rather than wade in the snow. The change is so sudden and unnatural that the rapid growth stops and they become stunted; never getting so large as they would had they got their proper growth during warm weather. I believe it the plan of keeping late hatched pullets for breeders was followed for a long term of years that the fowl would become smaller from year to year until they would become worthless.—*Epitomist*.

*Fruit Tree Borers.*

In June, July, and August, apple tree stems and main limbs should be washed with a very strong solution of soap. A look out for borers is necessary and they can easily be killed in their burrows. They can be located by their voidings, or signs of gum around holes; open these enough to admit into the hole the nozzle of a spring bottom oil can, with which inject into it a little bisulphide of carbon. With a little grafting wax close up the hole immediately. This drug is exceedingly dangerous and explicit directions from druggists should be followed in its handling. Never take it near the light or fire, as it is a dangerous explosive, and never breathe it, for it is certain death to all animal life.

Roup is unusually prevalent this year. Keep the chickens in a dry house free from draughts, and look out for colds, which may develop into roup.

When it can be done it is best to build your houses to front the south or southeast so as to get the sun's rays the entire day. Nothing will supply its place when eggs are desired in winter.



*Feed—Sunshine—Information.*

For an all round hen feed, I have found wheat to be one of the very best. Two parts wheat and one of oats also make an excellent whole grain feed. For the next best I would add buckwheat, and barley is an excellent grain for poultry, rye the poorest. Feed very little or none of this. It is a mistake to feed too much corn, and a mistake to feed too little of it also. For winter I believe that about 20 to 25 per cent, corn for the weekly rations to be about right, in summer less. Some object to feeding whole mixed grain on account of the hens picking out only the kinds they like best leaving the other to lie about to invite indigestion later on. I find that by the use of an automatic feeding machine this trouble is overcome. In this way the grain is littered out slowly and only just as fast as the hens clean it up.

Reduced egg production in winter is not always caused by cold weather. It is often more the lack of sunlight during the short days. As we cannot store away the rays of sunlight in midsummer and turn them loose in December and January, we will have to be content with what we have and make the best of it. Sunshine makes hens lively and healthy, and if the sky is free of clouds in winter the poultryman who has laying hens should avail himself of all he can get of it. Now, because this has been suggested, don't go and make the whole south side of the hen house of glass, you could not make a greater mistake, for while glass admits a good deal of warmth on sunny days, it also lets in a good deal of cold at night. The only way to avoid this is by using double windows or blinds, and close at night. Place a box of fine dirt, dampened just a little, in the house where the sun will shine on it, and note the comfort that the hens will get out of it. The benefit of both sunshine and dust will be multiplied. With this treatment and the right kind of food given in the right kind of way, the hens cannot help but lay eggs. In giving information on poultry raising I believe it would be better if all would give an account of their failure as well as their success. It seems to be a common thing for nearly every one to tell of the great success they have had, but they are very careful about relating any of their failures. It often happens that we can not learn much from an experience that is all success, for the reason that we cannot easily detect the things that had the greatest influence on that success, but when there is a failure and all the details are given, the cause is generally plain. And again I do not think a man very well qualified to give advice in this science unless he has suffered losses from many causes, and knows well what caused these losses. If a person has had an unbroken record of success I think he will be able to impart very little knowledge that needs to be known by every one who goes into poultry raising to any extent. Look through the poultry papers and read of the wonderful success attained by different poul-

trymen. No trouble from bowel complaint, no grapes, no roup, just clear sailing from start to finish. A beginner may start in the business and adopt the very same system of handling and feeding chicks as laid down by the successful raiser and lose one half of all he hatches. What's the cause? Don't know. He never has seen anything like it and reads of nothing but success. Give your actual experience, even if it is bad.

*Getting Eggs In Winter.*

Such a headline is extremely catchy at this season, for who is it that does not like to get plenty of eggs in winter when prices are good; says a correspondent in an exchange. Our journals are filled with advices under the above heading, but when simmered down, the chaff blown out, etc., it nearly all points us to the feeding of clover meal, cut bone and commercial remedies which some farmers are not able to get for their flocks. Furthermore, the farmers' profit is mostly contained in the feeding of their own by-products from the fields they till, hence they are interested mostly in the feeds they raise rather than those they buy.

While we feel confident that it is profitable to feed cut bone, etc., yet we must know just how far to go to feed it in order to save this profit. We must take its cost the value and quantities of other feeds into consideration. We have long ago learned that comfortable and cleanly quarters come first. As cold weather approaches give the poultry house a thorough overhauling, shutting up as near as possible, all cracks to prevent drafts, disinfecting the coop and perches with plenty of kerosene and carbolic acid. Lay in a supply of cut chaff, leaves, dry straw and sand. Fill the dust boxes with sand and ashes, slightly tainted with dashes of coal oil and sulphur. Clean out the nest boxes and drench them with kerosene emulsion, namely, soap, coal oil and water mixed. Fill up a couple of small boxes with crushed oyster shells and nail them up in easy reach of the fowls some place about the building, and be sure to keep them full of shells. A hundred pounds, at an outlay of about 80 cents, will last a hundred fowls all winter, and will do more toward keeping the hens healthy than all the medicine in creation.

Do not keep too many fowls together. Fifty to seventy-five in a house 14x30 feet, about two-thirds of which is scratching shed is about right. Do not let them wade out into the snow to eat their feed. Feed them in the scratching pens among the litter and make them work for what they get, for they have nothing else to do but work and lay. We always feed a warm mash each morning to our laying hens. This mash is composed of course ground corn, bran and either chopped oats rye or barley, mixed and scalded in large buckets.

We feed this in shallow troughs inside of building. We never let a laying hen tramp out into the snow and sleet nor eat snow to

quench thirst, as nothing will set a hen back so quickly as this and scanty feeding.

Feed will be high this winter and feeding expensive and many flocks, we fear, will not get their quota of grain; but this will be very poor policy, for it is a poor system of feeding when a flock of hens fail to pay their way in egg production when properly housed and cared for.

One point that should be carefully looked after with laying hens is the water supply, for unless they get their allotment of water they will not lay eggs. As water does not freeze in our poultry house during winter we are preparing to place a large barrel in the centre of the house with a small automatic feeder upon the side so that the water feeds from the barrel into the basin, thus keeping fresh water before them at all times. We find this is one of the greatest necessities in the role of winter egg production.

*The Henyard.*

Ashes and hen-manure if mixed together before being applied to the soil result in a loss of ammonia from the droppings that greatly lessens the value. Put ashes on after the manure has been mixed with the soil; the ammonia will be absorbed by the soil and remain it for the use of the crop. Wood ashes make a valuable application to hasten decomposition in coarse manures, but absorbents should be used to prevent loss, or the manure applied at once to the land. The smaller the poultry quarters, the cleaner they must be kept. Clean out the coops often; filth is unhealthy at any season of the year. Poultry is the cheapest and most economical and best meat raised on the farm. Coarse food promotes digestion and helps to keep the fowls in a healthy condition. Feed as much as it is possible. Are you keeping accurate record of your poultry account, including cost of labor and the income from your sales? As a table food a good fat duck ranks among the best, and for this reason they are never a drug on the market, but sell readily at good prices. Do not simply throw the water out of the drinking vessels and put in fresh water, but wash the vessels thoroughly every time you change the water. Leaves and dry earth make an excellent combination on the floor of the poultry house. Dry earth absorbs and disinfects, while the leaves make scratching material for the fowls. Be very careful about your eggs, and gather them daily and market them when good fresh. Do not be so foolish as to salt them down, and try to use some of the so called methods for "keeping eggs fresh," for cannot do it, and the result is that such products on the market destroy prices and disgust the egg consumers, and you will do more harm than good.—F. H. Sweet. In Epitomist.

Feathers and combs are largely matters of fancy, but egg laying and chicken raising are matters of business.



# The AMERICAN FANCIER and BREEDER

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We just received a complete set of the daily editions of COMMERCIAL POULTRY published during the Chicago Show. Every copy is a complete paper and we appreciate the effort on the part of Draper Publishing Company to advance the poultry industry. We wish COMMERCIAL POULTRY the best of success.

The Modern Farmer of St. Joseph, Mo., has purchased Poultry, Bees and Fruit of Davenport, Ia. All advertisements and all subscriptions will be carried out as contracted with the latter mentioned journal.

Nearly all poultry diseases are caused by either cold, wet or want of cleanliness. Much of it is traced to bad feeding. Neglect somewhere is the cause of all the disease. It is easier to guard against than to cure disease. It is almost always unsatisfactory to treat sick birds.

### TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING AMERICAN PLYMOUTH ROCK CLUB.

The 12th annual meeting of the American Plymouth Rock Club was held at Madison Square Garden New York January 7th 1903, with 32 members present.

The following officers were elected President W. S. Russel, Ottumwa, Iowa. Vice-Presidents E. B. Thompson, J. F. Crangle, D. T. Heimlich, J. M. Rapp, B. S. Davis, E. L. Miles, T. D. Norval. Secretary & Treasurer H. P. Schwab, Rochester, N. Y. Executive Committee A. C. Smith, C. H.

Welles, H. S. Fletcher, E. S. Hickman, F. A. Schellabarger, I. E. Tate, J. Geo. Goodwin.

162 applications for membership were received and approved. The Constitution was amended giving to each State Home-Rule, a full report can be had on application.

The 1903 Club Catalogue is now out and will be mailed free for 4 cents postage, it is a large handsome book chock full of good reading that will prove interesting and beneficial, we wish all breeders and fanciers of Barred Plymouth Rocks to have a copy.

We also want all interested persons as members we want to pass the 1000 mark by next meeting, the initiation fee is \$1, annual dues, 50 cents, for circular & further information address, H. P. Schwab, Secretary & Treasurer, Rochester, N. Y.

156 CHICKS JUST TEN WEEKS OLD.

Mr. W. F. Chamberlain,  
Kirkwood, Mo.

DEAR SIR:— Just ten weeks ago today, right in the middle of winter, we hatched out 156 little chicks, and we have fed them nothing but "CHAMBERLAIN'S PERFECT CHICK FEED," and I am sorry to report the loss of little chick, and I herewith inclose you bill for the loss. While it is true that the little fellow that died was not strong when hatched, still we think we are entitled to damages.

Please ship us 500 lbs. more of your "PERFECT CHICK FEED," as possible, and oblige,

Yours respectfully,  
Hillside Squab & Poultry Co.,  
Pacific, Mo.

January 20, 1903.

P. S. Have had several late hatches and have not lost a single chick.

### POINTS ON LAWN MAKING.

A rich soil is one of the essentials to success. No matter what the extent of the lawn, it should be evenly moist and well drained. The general slope should be away from the residence on all sides. Seeding the lawn yields better results than sodding. Kentucky blue grass is the most satisfactory known seed for the majority of locations, but in the South, Bermuda grass, St. Lucia and Texas blue-grass are extensively employed. April is a good time in the North, to sow, before the usual light showers. The ground should be raked as nearly perfect as possible before sowing. Best results are obtained by sowing thickly. Four bushels to the acre is the usual allowance, but in small plots double the proportion may be used to advantage. After sowing, work seed into the soil with a rake. No clipping should be done till the grass is above three inches in height, and it should be kept at about this height during the first Summer. Avoid clipping at all soon before frost is expected.—Delineator.

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20th Century Publishing Co.,  
358 Fourth Avenue.  
Louisville, Ky.



*Poultry Keeping For Women.*

There is such a constant and dependable demand for eggs and poultry that poultry raising is one of the surest of profitable occupations and one that women can carry on. Even if the returns are not very great it is interesting and health-giving work. For any who loves the country and likes animals and especially feathered things, there is genuine pleasure in being out with her hens and chicks especially if she keeps them so thriving that they in return bring her a good income.

With the FARM JOURNAL and Biggle Poultry Book as guides any one should be able to learn how fowls should be housed and attended to so as to make them profitable, which means making them comfortable and healthy with glossy feathers and glowing red combs. Even one familiar with needs an up-to-date paper to tell her of the latest improvements in houses, food, incubators, breeds, etc.

One advantage about poultry raising is that rich land is not required, for stony barren land will answer, provided there is a little green grass that can be pecked, although profits are greater if the food is home raised. But it is important to be near enough to a market to be able to furnish eggs fresh as the morn and poultry in prime condition.

Hens need plenty of air and sunshine, but if they are to lay through the winter, and that's when "eggs are eggs," they must be kept in warm, cozy houses, have dry sheltered nests and be fed and tended with care. In the old days before poultry raising became a science hens were kept in houses where wind and snow sifted through chinks and the disconsolate creatures stood about in humped-up bunches of misery warming first one foot and then another, and laid no eggs worth mentioning from fall to spring.

Close attention is required throughout the year, but the pleasure comes in the spring, when the downy chickens come with their bright eyes. They are the most intelligent and independent of all young feathered things. The moment they are out of the shell they take up life as if long used to it, only sometimes mistaking one another's toes for a choice morsel. With an incubator this pleasure may be enjoyed almost the whole year round, but one misses their pretty tricks of jumping on their mother's back or cuddling into her feathers, and the sight of her supreme content and motherliness.—By Ruth Brown.

*Economy.*

Economy is one great item to be considered in the poultry business and it is not always the cheap feed that is the cheapest in the end. Damaged grain is very risky to use for it is liable to produce bowel disease and there is very little nourishment in them. Screenings are a good food if one can get a good quality but most of them are adulterated

with sweepings that amount to very little as far as their nutritive value is concerned. Hulled oats and good sound wheat form a bulk of our bill of fare, for it is found to be the most economical.

There is a varied difference of opinion between the methods of feeding dry or wet feed and others claiming the superiority of one and others having the best success with the other.

No doubt but the mash is far superior to dry grain in preparing a fowl for market or in forcing them at the broiler age for it stands to reason that the food can be more quickly assimilated and added to the weight of the fowl before dry grain could be ground by the fowl and converted in bone and muscle.

But for breeding a good steady growth is desirable to attain a heavy frame and then we have size and can put on as much fat as is desired. Mash fed three or four a week affords the fowl with a supply of cut clover and beef scrap when they are confined for it must be supplied in some form to balance their ration. Many claim that dry grain is superior in the breeding season as it keeps the fowls more active in scratching for the grain and the exercise thus obtained tends to strengthen the fertility of the eggs. Another claim is set forth that the food that is most quickly taken into the system is converted into eggs quicker and the fertility is liable to be lessened.—Poultry Standard.

*Selecting Breeding Fowls.*

In selecting the breeding fowls the cock should have good size, strong constitution, broad back, strong legs well set apart, to secure compactness and solidity. In addition he should have a nice smooth neck and head, bright eye, well developed comb and wattles for the breed he represents, handsome carriage, quick movement, bold and vigorous. The hens should be as uniform in size and color as possible, with fine heads, long and deep bodies, carried well out behind the legs, breasts finely rounded, legs short and stout. When weight of flesh is desired, length of body is an important requisite, when desired to combine weight with flesh, with prolificness select hens that are known to be good layers and from good laying stock. To these should be added strong constitutions able to stand the drain of egg production.—Exchange.

Have all your hen-house doors, windows and gates fixed so there will be the least possible chance for slamming or rattling.

Now is the time for those who are in earnest to begin operations right. Make more matings of fewer birds and learn where the good ones came from. This subject, as above stated, is one of the most important with which the breeder has to deal and, in fact, is the foundation of success. We will devote a liberal share of space to it this season.

Chicks that are hatched in January or February not only bring a good price for meat: but if bred for the fancy, they can be gotten up to weight by show time. White birds that are early save time to get a new dress and shed their brassy feathers after the sun of the summer is past. Felch says that there is no such a thing as a "stay-white" bird, but that the man who will time his operations properly may have white birds for the show room, providing he has shade for his birds.

The opinion prevailing that it requires skill to breed solid-colored birds is altogether a mistake. There is a lot of difference in the shades of white. A man may wash a bird for the show room and he may put in bluing enough to give the feathers a (dairy) milky cast, but he cannot hide yellow in the quill if there chance to be any. There is a lot of difference in white. There is cream-white, milk or chalk-white, and speckled-white.

The turkey crop has been a paying one this past year, nor is it liable to be less so the next year. The time was when turkeys were eaten only during the holidays to any great extent, but now they are in our markets every day in the year. The writer has a friend who last year sold all her little turks at from 50c. to 75c. apiece, when some of them were barely a month old. They went to a Denver berry raiser who wanted them to put in his berry patch to eat the grasshoppers for which they are par-excellent. In no way can a farmer easier turn loss into profit than by raising a flock of turkeys.

Nothing in nature is more becoming to a farm landscape than a flock of happy hens that are busy scratching in deep straw. See to it that your hens have plenty of straw to scratch in and they will not only be happier, but they will lay more eggs. A bare chicken yard is an abomination.

It seems to be the rule that beginners in the squab business have a desire to own white birds, but those who have followed the business for any length of time care little what the color may be so long as the bird produces a light skinned squab. White birds as a rule are not as hardy and do not generally do as well as colored birds. Some of the best squabs we have are from pure white and colored red preferred mated together. We prefer light pigeons to dark ones as they are more apt to throw light skinned squabs, but do not think it advisable to breed all the color out, retaining only the pure white. A market squab raiser for meat.

Private trade is the best, but the beginner must content himself to ship to the wholesale market until he gets a reputation for good squabs, then he can cater for a retail trade.—Poultry Herald.

Hens lay larger eggs than pullets.



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**FAMILY FLOCKS.**

Connected with every farm establishment there should be a poultry yard. Without it the farm is as incomplete as it would be without a piggery. And there is no reason why poultry should not be considered as a species of agricultural stock and turned to as good account for both producers and consumers. Indeed, every family in the country, although not devoted to agriculture, should have poultry. For the mechanic it is important; so it is to the professional man and to the merchant.

No direction or rule can be given as to size of the poultry yard, whether it shall contain ten hens, or fifty, or a hundred. If partly designed to produce poultry for market, it may, of course, be apportioned to the demand there is for the products. If these products are wanted for home consumption, only the size of the family should regulate the size of the poultry house and the number of the tenants. And in each case it is apparent that the amount of food produced on the premises for the use of the fowls, and the local convenience which can be appropriated to their accommodation, should have an influence in deciding how many should be kept. These are matters which all can decide for themselves. What might be expedient for one family would be inappropriate for others. Some, too, are excessively fond of eggs; others care less about them. The same is true in regard to the flesh of poultry. This also will have its influence. More eggs, therefore, and a much larger number of fowls of a better description ought to be ultimately producible; and this improvement should act on the various mar-

kets of the country.

Whenever in rural districts the farm does not comprise a good poultry yard a great defect is realized. In the line of attractions, pleasure and healthfulness this is an indispensable adjunct of the farm. A small outlay will make a plain picket fence six feet high, where hens, turkeys, geese and ducks, or a part of these, may be kept with great satisfaction and profit. It should not be so much of an object of fancy as utility. And it makes but little difference about the particular varieties, it will be found that there is but little real difference, only to suit the variety to the object in view. The large fowls are easily fenced in, and for all purposes are as good as any.

**Eggs For Hatching In Incubators.**

No two eggs are exactly alike, even when laid by one hen, as eggs from the same hen have failed to give a chick from every egg, the conditions being the same for all. Despite the various theories and methods suggested, no one has yet been able to know which egg will hatch and which will fail until after a certain period of incubation; and as to discerning the sex of the prospective chick within an egg, it is yet an impossibility, though many claim to be able to select such eggs. The temperature at which an egg is kept previous to hatching is also a factor to be considered. Eggs kept at a temperature of between forty and sixty-five degrees above zero may be retained much longer than when the temperature is higher; but they must also be turned, so as to change their positions, or the period of their profitable existence will be shortened. The long-

est period during which eggs have been kept and healthy chicks hatched is six weeks, they being stored in winter at about fifty degrees, turned three times a week, and placed in an incubator. They gave nearly as good results as fresh eggs. After the sixth week, and up to the eighth, they gradually failed. It is possible that but few experiments have been made in that direction, and it is also possible that another lot of eggs might give different results. As it is much easier to produce fresh eggs than to care for so long a period as six weeks, but little inducement is offered to conduct such a test. The results secured from one lot cannot be easily duplicated with another, and it is this difficulty that has rendered theories and experiments with fowls and eggs so unreliable and uncertain.

**Wholesale and Retail.**

We can raise a bushel of potatoes at an expense not exceeding twenty cents when we grow Rural New Yorker No. 2 or the Carmans in a ten-acre field, planting and digging with machinery, and doing all the other work in a business-like way. But a bushel of Early Ohios grown in a small garden-patch will cost us thirty cents or more to produce if we count our own labor at going rates. Wholesale production enables us to sell at wholesale prices with some profit. But if we have Early Ohios to sell from our limited production we want the highest retail price for them, and we usually get it.

No matter when eggs are set they should be carefully tested on the fifth or sixth day to see if they are fertile.



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When we have placed with our customers the amount of treasury stock of any company necessary for its development, our labors and responsibilities have but just begun. We must stay with the property and our customers' financial interests therein; must see that it is intelligently, economically and honestly operated; and, having a conditional interest in the profits of the property, secondary to the interests of our customers, if we followed any other policy than that of keeping strict supervision of its management, even although it might take a much longer time than was anticipated to demonstrate the actual value of the property and place it upon an independent dividend-earning basis, we would most assuredly be negligent not only of our customers' interest, but of our own as well.

The following remark recently made regarding our firm by one of the well-known financiers of New York was both flattering and appreciated, for it expressed what we are striving for:

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**GROVE STOC' FARM,**  
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**Wanted To Sell.**

500 of my Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, Silver Laced Wyandottes, Light Brahmas. To readers of this paper I have show birds, also breeders. I guarantee to please every customer or his money back, try me and see. J. A. ROADRUCK,

Tripp Co.

Buck Creek, Ind.

**Good Broilers.**

Good broilers have commanded unusually high prices during past season. While the regular market quotation have not been so much higher than usual, as much as one dollar per chick (weighing one and one-half pounds) has been obtained. The reason of these prices probably because of the scarcity and high price of feed during past winter and spring. Then in a great many sections of the country the old stock of poultry was cleaned out much closer than usual.

There are chickens that are broilers and those that are called broilers, but in many instances a large percentage of the latter are anything but what a broiler should be. In fact there are comparatively few first class broilers produced except by regular broiler plants. The others are simply thrifty growing chickens and are not suited to the purpose of broiling at all. It has been urged upon poultry raisers to endeavor to produce broilers of the highest quality, as it does not pay to raise something that can be easily obtained on the market. Yet how few there are outside of those in the business that know how to make a good broiler. There is a class of customers who care very little about the prices, if they can get want, and a great many sales are made to these people at fancy prices which do not get into the market quotations at all. The firm requisite for a good broiler chicken is plumpness. A chicken that is allowed free range can not be made very plump at ten weeks of age, nor even at fourteen weeks of age, if they have their their liberty all the the time and are fed only a growing ration. To make a good broiler the bird must have the proper food and be pushed all the time, yet they must not be over fed. Enough exercise must be given to keep them healthy, but not so as to make them hard and muscular like the stock to be raised for breeding purposes. Corn alone will not make a chicken for broiling. It is good as far as it goes, for fattening and warming qualities it is excellent, but if given alone to yarded chicks they are very likely to soon break down. Wheat contains the material for bone, feathers, etc., oats for muscle, so if we feed corn two parts, wheat and oats one part of each, we have a ration that builds them up in the right proportion and grows them fast. A chicken that has to be kept four months to get in condition for a broiler is more apt to be a roaster than anything else.

It matters little how full the market may be of other poultry, if one has a uniform lot of chickens weighing from one and three-quarters to two pound each, that have been grown in eight to ten weeks, he is pretty sure of getting a good price for them. With all the improvements for raising chicken, this kind is not easy enough produced yet to flood the market to any extent in their season.—V.M. Couch.

Healthy fowls pick up their food quickly.

**BREEDERS CARDS.**

CARDS of 30 words or less, in card column, 1 insertion 50 cents, 3 insertions \$1.00, 6 insertions \$1.75. 12 insertions \$3.00.

Cards with small illustration, of 20 words or less at the above rates. Over this number of words in plain or illustrated cards, 2 cents for each extra word. All cards must be paid for in advance.

CHICKENS, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Guinea, Pea fowl, Belgian Hares, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Rats, Mice, Dogs, Cats, Ring Doves. Eggs for hatching State wants. Wm. A. Bartlett, Box 34, Jacksonville, Ill.

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Poultry Breeders send 50c for a 20-paged monthly devoted to poultry, etc. Sample 3 cents "Michigan Poultry Breeder," Battle Creek, Mich. Or send 55 cents and receive "Michigan Poultry Breeder," and THE AMERICAN FANCIER & BREEDER both 1 year.

GOLDEN SEBRIGHT BANTAMS bred from Crystal Palace Winners. Breeders in my yards score from 92 to 96. Eggs \$3.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 26. Send for illustrated catalogue. Free. Lea M. Munger, DeKalb, Ill.

PIGEONS FOR SALE — Fine Homers, Homers and Runt Crosses, also 500 Pigeons bred for Squab breeding. Prices right. N. B. Hoyt, Hubbard, Iowa. 8-11

PIGEON Book, illustrating, describing all varieties, arranging loft, feeding, breeding, caring for, 5 cents. 1,000 Pigeons for sale, prices sent free. Wm. Bartlett & Co., Box 34, Jacksonville, Ill.

BEAUTIFUL Pedigreed Toy White French Poodle Dogs at stud. Pups sent on approval Rathmann's Pet Kennels, 708 Rosco Blv., Chicago, Ill. —6-12.

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1890

1901

**ROYAL BLOOD  
Silver Laced Wyandottes  
For Sale.**

Winners Big 4 Show, Sioux City, Ia., in '98, Lamars, Ia., in '99, National Fancier's Meet, Cedar Rapids, Ia., 1900, and at Neb. State Poultry Show at Lincoln entered 10 birds, won 1st. Cock score 92½ 1st, 2nd, 3rd Cockerels, score 94½, 1st, 2nd, 3rd pullets, score 93½, 2nd hen in large class and very warm competition. We have never had but one bird defeated. Never had a bird scored except in the show room. We have a few breeding pens to spare, possibly not up to weight but soon will be, at \$12.50. Pairs at \$7.50. See half-tone of our birds in frontispiece of March (1901) number of this paper. Can't sell you quite as good as those at these at this price, but they will produce Prize Winners for you. Exhibition birds our specialty. If anyone can please, you we can.

**Ponca Wyandotte Yards,**  
I. & N. M. CONNOR, PONCA, NEB.



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Our Matings still produce the Winners, and win the Prizes for our Patrons.

We are giving our friends and patrons the benefit of our 29 Years' Experience in Mating and Breeding. We make a specialty of

**Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, Silver and White Wyandottes, White and Brown Leghorns, Bronze Turkeys, Bantams, and Pearl Guineas.**

HERE IS A GOOD RECORD.

What our patrons say:

January 3d.—The two Barred Plymouth Rock Cockerals you sold my friend, scored 93 and 94 by B. N. Pierce. I have changed my mind and want to know what you will send me a cockeral bred for me. The youngest cockeral had the finest hackle I ever saw, and all clear yellow legs, nice comb and a strong bay eye. They were well barred to the skin, let me know soon. Yours truly,

A. N. HILLS.

UNIVERSITY PLACE, NEB., Feb. 17, 1901.

F. M. MUNGER, De Kalb, Ill.

Dear Sir:—I bought some eggs of you some years ago, I like the stock better than from any I have been able to get since. Please send me catalogue and prices. Yours truly,

W. H. INGRAHAM.

Have won the grand Sweepstakes at Chicago and Rock Island shows, 1887 to 1894 on greatest number of birds scoring 90 points and over; 504 birds scoring 90 to 98½, a record never equalled by any breeder. We shall, in the future as in the past, constantly try to please our friends and patrons and also spend much time and a large amount of money each year in improving our stock of high, pure-bred fowls. Our matings for the past year have proved very satisfactory—as a reference to the scores of the young birds will show—and our breeding yards for



Wing of "Match Mark Prince" at the head of one of our breeding pens. Match Mark Prince is a most remarkable bird in color and markings, clear, even surface color and nearly perfect in Eye, Comb, Legs and Shape. We value Match Mark Prince at \$100.00 in place of his valuable breeding qualities, mated with high scoring Blue Bracons and pullets. A limited number of eggs from this mating at \$1.00 per 13; \$7.00 per 26.

the coming season are made up of the finest and most beautiful specimens in each variety we have ever used. These yards are selected from over 1,000 fine birds, and contain large, well matured and vigorous specimens, nearly all of them prize winners. We put eggs in new baskets, and in such a manner that they will go safely long distances by Express, to any part of the continent and hatch just as well as at home. I guarantee eggs to arrive in good order. I have shipped eggs to nearly every State and Territory, and in almost every case with good results, as I send eggs that are fresh and well fertilized by strong and vigorous male birds, and I know a good per cent of them will hatch if proper care is given. Eggs from Barred Plymouth Rocks from such sires as "Match Mark," "Blue Prince 21," "Hero Prince 2d," "Sweepstakes 2d" "Blue Jay," \$1.00 per 13; \$7.00 per 26. Five other high scoring sires, such as "Prince Lea," "Champion Prince," "High Mirk" and "Hustler," \$3.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 26 Eggs from Waite Plymouth Rocks, Silver and White Wyandottes, White and Brown Leghorns \$3.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 26. Turkey eggs 50 cents each, from eight special matings. Eggs in large numbers a matter of correspondence. Birds hatched from our matings have won the highest honors in every State in the Union.

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